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be greater than was at first apprehended. Great exertions are making in many parishes to provide the lower classes with meal at a reduced price, which will have considerable effect in keeping it low, by inducing those who have large quantities of it, to bring it to market.

#### COMMERCIAL REPORT.

The voice of the people in England, nearly unanimous against the Orders in Council, has at last been heard. The committees from the commercial and manufacturing districts have adduced a valuable and clear body of evidence at the bars of both houses of parliament, in which it appears, according to Henry Brougham's speech, that the scarcity of money arising from bad trade has been found to press much more heavily than the scarcity and high prices of provisions. It is more difficult to procure the money to purchase, than to find supplies of provisions. A greater case of commercial distress, than that at present existing in England, has scarcely ever been made out. Nor have the rougher accents of the unenlightened Luddites been without their effect in the delineation of national distress, and in producing the alarms, which have induced the present ministers, powerful only in trick and finesse, cased as they are in selfish motives, and impenetrable, except only to fear, to put on the appearance of making concessions.

At first public expectations were great, that by a relinquishment of the system of the Orders, trade would be restored by a conciliation with America, but other matters yet remain to be discussed with the Americans, as to the right of search, and the impressing of sailors; and concessions tardily granted after so many causes of irritation, do not always at once produce conciliation. To the apprehensions, that the United States may have already determined on more direct hostility on raising the embargo, we have to add the doubts, whether when the proposed suspension shall be known, at the other side of the Atlantic, the terms will meet the approbation of the American government, and thus the hopes of a restoration of trade are still rendered doubtful.

Since the commencement of this Magazine, a warning voice has been raised in these reports, against the Orders in Council, but our merchants and manufacturers were deaf, and fenced in apathy, they disregarded the calls of true policy. The conduct of the linen-draperies at Armagh at the close of the year 1808, stamps a character on our public spirit not easily to be effaced, when a submission to men in authority prevented a declaration against those orders, the impolicy of which, is now generally avowed.

One trait in the national distress in England, is discovered in the fact, that it has been proved in evidence, that the new cutlery of Sheffield has been pledged in large quantities with the pawnbrokers of London. When manufacturers submit to the exorbitant interest charged by pawnbrokers, great indeed must be the distress.

The Linen trade of this country is without amendment, and a very dull market in Dublin is expected. The hopes entertained of an improvement through the alteration of the Orders in Council, will be much more likely to operate in raising the prices in the brown markets, than in tending to increase the sale of the bleached goods. The expectation of conciliation with America is likely to be more operative in the former than in the latter case.

The sale of guineas is now clandestine, as was to be expected from the operation of the late act of parliament, published in our last number. Guineas were lately selling in Dublin at a premium of 5s. per piece, but the transaction there, and in other places, must be private, and on the mutual honour, or the mutual interest of the buyer and seller, to keep it secret. Our readers will find among the documents a clear explanation of Lord King's motives for enforcing payment of gold in all old contracts, and of the reasonableness of this claim, in his speech delivered last year in the house of Lords on Earl Stanhope's bill. He shews that though gold when placed against bank paper is raised in value, owing to the depreciation of the latter, yet that wheat, a fair criterion of the prices of necessities, when compared with the price of bullion, is lowered in value since the period of the bank restriction act in 1797.

Exchange on London has this month fluctuated in Belfast from  $9\frac{1}{2}$  to 9 per Cent.

#### NATURALIST'S REPORT.

*From the 20th May to the 20th June, 1812.*

May 21, Herb Robert, (*Geranium Robertianum*), Field Pimpernel (*Anagallis Arvensis*).